

Once upon a time there was a very normal girl. She played soccer and practised yoga. She played guitar and loved to sing. She had many different friends. Some of ~~a~~ this girl's friends were musicians. They practised guitar and drums and bass for many many hours at a time and this girl, whose name was Amanda, loved to come and play and listen to these friends of hers because they were so passionate about sound. It amazed her to see people who could use tools to create a sensation so beautiful, and so heartfelt. Amanda also had another group of friends. These friends kept their lives around sports. They watched games and played games all the time. They knew everything about players and coaches and rules and scores. Amanda liked these people because they were so spirited. She didn't really understand their grand passion, but she liked to see it. Amanda was friends with a few very creative, philosophical minds as well. These people were full of questions, and together Amanda and these friends would sit through the night asking questions, and instead of giving answers, only asking more questions. After sitting and thinking with these friends Amanda felt very confused, but also very content.

One of Amanda's greatest friends, however, was a boy her age who was called DJ. When Amanda met DJ she thought he was a very nice boy and was friends with him immediately. She met this boy in the climbing gym at her university, where a very small amount of people came to climb cliffs in their dreams, and where they climbed plastic rock in reality. It was practise for their greater love, mother nature. These people were adventurers, and it was with these people that Amanda felt most at home. Of course she loved her musicians, her athletes, her philosophers, but at heart Amanda was in love with the outdoors, and so she loved these friends most of all. What Amanda didn't know was that this DJ, this boy with whom she climbed, was ~~so~~ very much in love with her. For two years this boy and this girl were friends together of nature, but they were not best friends. They did not see each other everyday and they did not talk everyday. They only saw each other, in fact, when they were climbing together, whether they were indoors or out. Amanda didn't think much of it, but DJ, he was run amok in his heart. He very much wanted to tell Amanda how he felt, but he feared rejection, and so for two years he was only her friend and he watched from afar as Amanda dated other boys, went out with other friends, and lived her life almost entirely without him.

But then one day Amanda began to notice DJ more. When they climbed together she watched him carefully. She talked to him more. She met with him and his friends to play soccer. She met with him alone to talk about philosophy and politics. But most importantly of all, she ~~in~~ went hiking and camping with him, alone, into the beautiful wilderness together. This is where Amanda began to see she could love this boy.

But not yet. Love was difficult for Amanda at this time. The first two years ~~of~~ before she began to feel for this boy, Amanda had tried two other boys. The first just used her for sex. The second never loved her. And so, Amanda didn't trust her heart. She couldn't let herself be hurt by giving her heart. This was a great obstacle in

DJ's heart, because he very much wanted to take action and tell Amanda of his feelings, but he was afraid Amanda would begin to fear him, should he tell the truth, just as Amanda feared her heart.

But one day DJ couldn't keep it in anymore. The secret of his heart was eating him from the inside and was a pain every moment he laid his eyes on her and even when he didn't see her, because her image was always taunting his mind. One day he was walking Amanda home from a party that they had together with their friends. Amanda was not used to going out and staying up late, so she wanted to leave the party early to go home. DJ immediately offered to walk her home. But on the walk home DJ found he couldn't find the words he wanted to say. It was strange, because DJ felt he could talk to Amanda about anything, anything but this. Amanda sensed through his silence his heavy heart and she asked him, "what are you thinking about?"

DJ smiled, knowing that this was really the time. Amanda's words welcomed the knowledge of his feelings, because in her words was more than the immediate significance. It was like she was telling him, "I already know and that there was nothing to be afraid of." Still, DJ was a shy person with his feelings. He responded truthfully, but vaguely, protecting his heart, "I'm thinking about you."

Amanda blushed, but in the darkness DJ couldn't see this. In fact, DJ wasn't paying much attention to her anymore. He was paying very close attention to his shoes. Amanda knew what was in DJ's heart and she was both elated and frightened by the confirmation she read in his actions. Honestly, she didn't know what to do, and so she pressed him further, thirsty for the words of his heart and of his mind, for this was what for her was most tantalizing about